

I also feel, however, that the values and beliefs that the American flag represents are more important than the cloth from which the symbol is made. Prominent among these beliefs are the right to voice views that are unpopular and the right to protest. It is these fundamental values, reflected in our Constitution, that have distinguished our Nation for more than 200 years. It is these beliefs that give our flag its great symbolic power.

Flag burning is despicable. However, the issue before us is whether our great charter document, the Constitution, should be amended so that the Federal Government can prosecute the handful of Americans who show contempt for the flag. To quote James Madison, is this a "great and extraordinary occasion" justifying the use of a constitutional amendment?

I would argue no, this is not such an occasion. This is an answer in search of a problem. According to Professor Robert Justin Goldstein, a noted author on this topic, there have been only 200 reported incidents of flag burning during the entire history of our country—that is less than one a year. There is no epidemic of flag burnings plaguing our nation.

Others have said that flag burning is representative of a general decay of American values and patriotism, and something needs to be done about it before it is too late. I would argue the way to encourage patriotism is through encouraging civic involvement, not constitutional amendments. It almost goes without saying that people who are proud of their country will be proud of their flag.

I am still moved by the statement made by James Warner, a decorated Marine flyer who was a prisoner of the North Vietnamese from 1967 to 1973, about flag burning:

I remember one interrogation where I was shown a photograph of some Americans protesting the war by burning a flag. "There" the officer said. "People in your country protest against your cause. That proves that you are wrong."

"No," I said, "that proves that I am right. In my country we are not afraid of freedom, even if it means that people disagree with us."

And I think that is the essence of this debate for me. We live in a democracy, not a dictatorship. The flag symbolizes a political system that allows its people, through their actions and words, to express what they think and feel, even when the government or a vast majority of others disagree with them. I oppose this amendment because I believe that while attempting to preserve the symbol of the freedoms we enjoy in this country, it actually would harm the substance of these freedoms.

Finally, this amendment to the Constitution is technically problematic. The language of the amendment is vague and fails to offer a clear statement of just what conduct the supporters of the amendment propose to prohibit, or to advise the American

people of the actions for which they may be imprisoned. There is no definition of what a "flag" is for purposes of this amendment, or any consensus regarding the meaning of "desecration." This leaves the Supreme Court to clarify these meanings, the same court that supporters believe erred in protecting flag burning as freedom of speech in the first place.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,711,905,996,688.11 (Five trillion, seven hundred eleven billion, nine hundred five million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and eleven cents).

Five years ago, April 24, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,839,548,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred thirty-nine billion, five hundred forty-eight million).

Ten years ago, April 24, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,066,631,000,000 (Three trillion, sixty-six billion, six hundred thirty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, April 24, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,731,710,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty-one billion, seven hundred ten million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 24, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$514,446,000,000 (Five hundred fourteen billion, four hundred forty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,197,459,996,688.11 (Five trillion, one hundred ninety-seven billion, four hundred fifty-nine million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and eleven cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TUFTS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I applaud Tufts University for furthering the values of leadership, citizenship, and public service, by founding a University College of Citizenship and Public Service. By creating this new college, Tufts' President, Dr. John DiBiaggio, is fostering an attitude of "giving back" to supplement the University's vision that "active citizen participation" is essential to freedom and democracy.

Tufts has a history of commitment to civic education, having founded the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs over 50 years ago. The largest student organization on the Medford campus is the Leonard Carmichael Society, a community service group, which boasts about 1,000 members. Recently, Tufts has hatched the "United Leaders for a Better Tomorrow," a new student organization that aims to encourage young people to

pursue careers in public service. With chapters starting across the country, this group of young leaders seeks to enlist those Americans interested in public service in using public office as a vehicle for change.

Tufts University is now renewing its commitment to public service with an entrepreneurial spirit. Tufts is not adding a stand-alone college, composed of its own buildings and faculty. Instead, the university is creating a "virtual college," one "without walls," challenging itself to infuse all classroom instruction with the ideas of citizenship and public service.

According to Tufts' President Dr. John DiBiaggio, the tangible impact will mean that a major in child development who is mentoring kindergarten kids in a poor community could also participate in legislative advocacy to improve conditions in that community or, a Tufts student who wants to be a chemist will have an opportunity to measure pollution in nearby waterways, determine the sources of this pollution and then create a local team to clean them up.

The need for a college of public service has never been greater. While Tufts students, Massachusetts residents, and citizens nationwide are volunteering at record rates, voter participation rates continue to fall. Just two stops away on the T's red line, the "Vanishing Voter Project" at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government measures the depth of the public's cynicism and apathy towards public service. Last week, according to the Vanishing Voter Project's Voter Involvement Index, only 19% of the American public paid any attention to the Presidential race. In fact, at no time during the Presidential Primaries—one of the most hotly contested races in years—did the number of Americans paying attention to the race rise above 46%. In the world's leading democracy, in an age where limitless information is available at our fingertips, we can do better.

More than ever, it is critical that we restore and maintain civil society. We need voters that are educated and engaged. Tapping the cutting edge of the New Economy's budding e-commerce, Tufts is partnering with eBay founder, Pierre Omidyar. eBay, is now the world's leading person-to-person online trading community. Omidyar's ten million dollar investment in the College of Public Service includes financial aid packages for 24 undergraduates every year, enhanced public and private sector internship opportunities, citizenship-based career workshops, and a senior honors program in civic activism. Mr. President, Tufts University's College of Citizenship and Public Service and its partnership with eBay's Pierre Omidyar illustrates the possibilities provided by technological innovation. The promise of a technology based digital democracy is that billions of people will engage in business, receive their news, and even vote, directly and

instantly. Our challenge for this new age is to continue to foster values of public service, community, and citizenship, in order to constantly renew and re-engage our citizenry and our democracy.●

RETIREMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, JOE B. WYATT

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on April 29 the Vanderbilt University community will honor Joe B. Wyatt, who will retire this summer after a long and distinguished career as Chancellor of that prestigious university. I rise today to pay tribute to Chancellor Wyatt. His significant contributions have not only benefitted the Nashville campus, but also have had a very positive impact on the State of Tennessee and, indeed, our entire nation.

Joe Wyatt's tenure as head of Vanderbilt, which extends back to 1982, has been marked by substantial growth at the University: new construction and renovation on campus; tremendous expansion of the renowned Medical Center; major increases in the levels of research grants; and a quantum leap in the university's endowment.

Today, Vanderbilt University and Medical Center is the largest private employer in Middle Tennessee and the second largest in the state. It generates an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$2.2 billion to the area. Among the 19,000 Vanderbilt alumni who live in Middle Tennessee are numerous leaders in business, government, law, education and medicine. And many of these young men and women were handed their diplomas by Joe Wyatt before moving on to make a mark in their chosen fields.

Equally important, Mr. Wyatt's stewardship has been marked by the academic and intellectual growth of the University. He has helped attract a world-class faculty that is consistently recognized nationally and internationally for its research and teaching excellence. In addition, he recognized, earlier than most, the potential impact of new technology on our society and education, and he facilitated the development of research programs that cut across various academic disciplines, reflecting changes in the real world and maximizing the University's academic resources.

Personally, in making my own decision of whether to come to Vanderbilt to join the staff at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as Assistant Professor in cardiothoracic surgery, it was Joe Wyatt's support of a vision of establishing a multi-organ, multi-disciplinary transplant center at Vanderbilt that encouraged me to come back to Nashville. His commitment to seeing that vision become a reality led to the establishment of the Vanderbilt Transplant Center which since that time has served thousands of patients throughout the Southeast.

During Joe Wyatt's 18 years of service at Vanderbilt, the university has

evolved steadily from a highly regarded regional institution to a truly national institution, widely known for its excellence in a wide array of undergraduate and graduate fields. Today, it is among the top ranks of research universities in the United States, with a student body that represents all 50 states and more than 90 foreign countries.

Chancellor Wyatt is widely regarded today as a senior statesman of the research university community. His deep commitment to higher education issues is exemplified by his participation in, and leadership of, many national advisory groups and policymaking organizations. For example, he has served the last two years as chairman of the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable of the National Academy of Sciences. He also is the current chairman of the Universities Research Association and chairs a blue ribbon panel on quality standards for the non-profit organization, New American Schools. In addition, he serves on the Business Higher Education Forum, the Council on Competitiveness and the Advisory Committee of the Public Agenda Foundation.

Mr. President, Joe B. Wyatt has made contributions in many areas, but I think his greatest legacies will be in the following three areas:

First, he has fostered greater communication and cooperation among the three sectors most involved in our nation's unique research enterprise—universities, the federal government and industry.

Chancellor Wyatt is the Chairman of a group at NSF devoted to bringing government, universities and businesses together in a collaborative effort to improve our nation's research effort.

Second, he has promoted increased awareness of the great responsibility of our schools of education to "teach the teachers" who prepare America's youth for the challenges of tomorrow.

Chancellor Wyatt supported a controversial provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 to hold colleges of education accountable for their students' performance as teachers. This provision, and Chancellor Wyatt's deep commitment to improving our nation's colleges of education, will have a lasting impact not just on higher education, but on our entire elementary and secondary school system.

Third, he has generated, through personal example, renewed commitment to volunteer community service by all members of the university community.

Today, Vanderbilt undergraduates are engaged in volunteer programs in unprecedented numbers. It was no accident that, when they recently came to say farewell to Vanderbilt alumni in the Washington, DC, area, Joe and Faye Wyatt spent the day at an inner-city elementary school, working alongside 75 alumni in a reading and storytelling program with local third-graders.

I include for the RECORD an article from the Vanderbilt Register On-Line. The article further details Joe B. Wyatt's many accomplishments over a span of nearly two decades as Chancellor of the University. Throughout this period, he has maintained a sharp focus on two things that really matter . . . two things that are enduring in our society: quality education of our nation's youth and service to the broader community. And he has done so with honor, decency and credibility.

We wish Joe and Faye Wyatt the very best, and give them heartfelt thanks for their service to Vanderbilt University.

The article follows:

JOE B. WYATT, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
CHANCELLOR, 1982-2000

When Alexander Heard retired in 1982, the board named Joe B. Wyatt to succeed him. As Chancellor, Wyatt sought to place Vanderbilt in the very top tier of American universities.

Wyatt, a Texan, holds degrees in mathematics from Texas Christian University and the University of Texas. He was vice president for administration at Harvard University—and father of a Vanderbilt sophomore—when he was selected as Vanderbilt's sixth Chancellor. As a computer scientist and executive, he brought to the University his concept that information technology is a strategic resource of accelerating global importance in education, research and patient care.

In addition to his influence in technology, Wyatt pushed the University community to unprecedented levels of involvement in volunteer community service. Alternative Spring Break was founded in 1987 by a handful of students with Wyatt's support. In spring 1999, more than 300 undergraduates participated in the program's 22 domestic and three international sites. With funding from the Chancellor's discretionary fund, the non-profit Break Away: The Alternative Break Connection was founded in 1991 by Vanderbilt graduates to help colleges across the country start alternative spring breaks. Today, half of all Vanderbilt undergraduates are engaged in volunteer programs, and the number of service organizations has exploded.

The term "national university" has taken on an expanded meaning under Wyatt. He has led a national effort to improve elementary and secondary education in the nation's public and private schools, and at home he has made the Vanderbilt student body the most diverse in history. Students hail from all 50 states and 91 foreign countries. Minority enrollment in Vanderbilt's four undergraduate schools has nearly tripled in the past 10 years. In the fall of 1999, minority students accounted for almost 20 percent of the undergraduate population, as compared to slightly less than 7 percent in 1987, while the overall enrollment has remained fairly constant. Over the same period, the number of minority students in the graduate and professional schools continued to increase.

In 1989, for the first time, Vanderbilt's undergraduate programs were ranked among the top 25 national universities overall in the U.S. News & World Report survey, placing 24th. Vanderbilt continues to be ranked in the top 25, placing 20th in 1999. In U.S. News' 1999 graduate school rankings, Peabody College was ranked sixth among schools of education; the Owen Graduate School of Management was ranked 25th among business schools; the law school was ranked 16th; and the School of Medicine was ranked 16th.